Murray State University

DEPARTMENT: English & Philosophy

COURSE NUMBER: TSL 409          CREDIT HOURS: 3.0

I. COURSE TITLE: Language Acquisition in Children & Adolescents

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines theories and perspectives on the language acquisition process in children and adolescents. Special emphasis includes a review of language acquisition research in school contexts and an examination of the relationship between various theories of acquisition and instruction. Two field trips to two public schools will be part of the instructional activities. Prerequisite: ENG 310

III. PURPOSE: To explore the major theories, relevant research, and pedagogical implications pertaining to first language acquisition and bilingualism.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Class activities will be centered on the attainment of the course objectives listed below. These objectives are understood to be reflective of, but not limited to those behaviors advocated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act guidelines. Following each objective, and enclosed in parentheses, are numbers which reference the Kentucky Teacher Standards for Preparation and Certification (KTS) addressed by that objective. By the end of this course, students will develop the requisite knowledge and skills to

A. discuss theoretical concepts/models in first language acquisition and bilingualism; (KTS #1, 4)
B. understand the major controversies and issues in first language acquisition and bilingualism; (KTS #1, 7, 8)
C. distinguish first language acquisition from second language acquisition theoretically and pedagogically; (KTS #1, 4)
D. evaluate critically primary research studies and related hypotheses concerning bilingualism; (KTS #1, 5) and
E. develop a research paper through an in-depth interview with a real bilingual on a topic of interest in bilingualism. (KTS #1, 6, 8)

The EPSB Themes of Diversity, Assessment, and Literacy/Reading will also be explored in the course through classroom discussion and classroom projects.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE: The course will begin by discussing major theoretical issues surrounding first language acquisition, second language acquisition, and bilingualism. The rest of the course will include analyzing applications of bilingual theories in PreK-12 ESL (English as a Second Language) school contexts, comparing first and second language acquisition in children and adolescents, and developing skills and initial scholarly thinking for scientifically analyzing and reporting young learners’ process-oriented language learning behaviors to the ESL community.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: The primary organization of the course will be a combination of lectures, class discussions, individual/group projects, and student presentations.
Students are expected to read selected readings and chapters before class and be prepared to be actively engaged in class discussions according to the course schedule. Two field trips to two public schools will be part of the instructional activities.

**VII. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:** Two field trips to two public schools during the semester is required.

**VIII. RESOURCES:** Students will have access to University resources, including electronic course materials and library resources.

**IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:** Course grades will be determined by student performance on activities such as class discussions, exams, and research projects.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

- **A** = 90 – 100 pts.
- **B** = 89 – 80 pts.
- **C** = 79 – 70 pts.
- **D** = 69 – 60 pts.
- **E** = 59 – 0 pts.

**X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:** The Attendance Policy in the current MSU *Undergraduate Bulletin* will be followed.

**XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:** The Academic Honesty Policy in the current MSU *Undergraduate Bulletin* will be followed.

**XII. REQUIRED TEXTS:** May include the following:

**XIII. PREREQUISITES:** ENG 310

**XIV. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:** Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Director of Equal Opportunity, 103 Wells Hall. 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).